

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

JUNE 25, 2024

1. TOWN OF DENNIS RECEIVES MASSTRAILS GRANT FOR \$116,000

Good news! Tom Andrade, Town Engineer shared this update with me. We were successful with yet another MassTrails Grant. This is the 3rd trails grant we have received (South Gages Way and Great Western Road crossings of the Cape Cod Rail Trail being the previous two awards). This grant will pay for the upgrade of the Cape Cod Rail Trail Crossing at Main Street by providing advance warning signs and upgrading the pavement markings, making all three of the crossings similar. The work will also include resurfacing the parking lot, (the old Town Hall portion of the parking lot) and improving the handicap accessible parking and access to the trail along with other amenities.

The MassTrails Grant Program expands and links the state's networks of off-road, shared-use pathways and recreational trails through matching grants, technical assistance, and resources available to municipalities, non-profits, and other public entities.

We anticipate starting the work in the fall when the bicycle season slows a bit.

Incredible grant writing work by Tom and his team!!

2. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES – VEHICLE ACCESS UPDATE

Crowes Pasture had a total of 4 nests so far this year. Currently there is one remaining nest with eggs. Three nests have already successfully hatched. The east access is currently only open following the escort calendar for the aquaculture grant holders. This is anticipated to continue for the next few weeks.

The recreational ORV access on the east side remains open. We anticipate the remaining nest at Crowes to hatch on July 11th which will close recreational ORV access until those chicks fledge. We will be monitoring the nest closely and may need to close earlier depending upon the hatch date. No vehicle escort plan is anticipated as the nest is too close to the access point.

South Village Landing currently has one active nest.

Chapin Beach has two active nests. The first nest is due to hatch the end of this week. Vehicle use/patrols will be restricted after the hatch date.

West Dennis Beach has 12 pairs of birds. Five nests have successfully hatched. We have 6 remaining active nests. The volleyball court chicks hatched a couple weeks ago and the "chick walk" that was set up in the parking lot was a success in getting them across to the beach. A big thank you to DPW staff, Henry in particular, and Beach staff in assisting to make the "chick walk" successful. There are currently chicks on both the main beach and the resident beach. As a result, beach raking is currently prohibited.

Keep in mind that closures remain in effect until chicks fledge (fly) at approximately 35 days of age. Given the number and location of nests at West Dennis, the west parking area closure is ongoing.

3. JULY 4TH INFORMATION

Town of Dennis and Dennis Police Department Announce New Restrictions for Beaches on Fourth of July. The restrictions will be put in place at Mayflower Beach, Chapin Memorial Beach and Bayview Beach on July 4th only.

Over the past three years, particularly at Mayflower Beach, police have seen a dramatic increase in unsafe and dangerous conduct, fighting, assaults, vandalism, binge drinking, drug use, loud music, and other concerning behavior.

Since 2019, there has been a 100% increase in beach-related calls for emergency services at the three beaches, which are connected geographically. Department data shows that Dennis Police responded to more than 1,200 calls for service at Town beaches over the past three July 4th holidays, including 459 calls last year.

To address this public safety concern, the Town of Dennis and the Dennis Police Department will be implementing the following restrictions on the Fourth of July:

- No Daily Parking Passes will be sold or accepted on July 4 at Mayflower Beach, Chapin Beach, or Bayview Beach. Only those who have a residential, seasonal, or weekly parking sticker will be allowed entrance to the beach parking lots.
- A parking ban will be in full effect in the neighborhoods and businesses adjacent to the beaches, and vehicles found in violation will be subject to being ticketed and/or towed.
- There will be zero tolerance for alcohol consumption, drug use, overly loud music and unsafe behavior at the beaches on July 4. Officers will be out in full numbers, and Dennis Police will be bringing in additional resources to help in this effort.

Vehicle Checkpoints, Parking and Rideshares

All drivers traveling to either Mayflower Beach or Chapin Memorial Beach from Main Street (Route 6A) will be stopped at a checkpoint at the intersection of New Boston Road and Beach Street. Those who have a proper parking sticker will be allowed to continue on (along with neighborhood residents and their visitors). Those who do not will be asked to turn around and will not be permitted to enter the beach parking lot.

There will be additional checkpoints, including at the parking lot entrances, and officers will be posted on side streets to direct traffic.

Bayview Beach is for residents only and officers will be checking for parking stickers there as well. Rideshare drivers without a proper parking sticker will be stopped at the intersection of Beach Street and New Boston Road, where passengers may be unloaded. For those considering walking from that intersection, it is approximately 1.2 miles to Mayflower Beach and 2.2 miles to Chapin Memorial Beach.

Zero Tolerance for Alcohol and Drugs

Alcohol is not permitted at any Dennis beaches, including on July 4th. Anyone found to be drinking alcohol on a Dennis beach will be issued a written citation, receive a fine of \$50 and have their alcohol confiscated. Those who do not comply after receiving a citation may be subject to arrest.

In addition to alcohol, drug use, vandalism, overly loud music and other unruly or rowdy behavior will not be tolerated.

Dennis Police will be out in full numbers on the beaches and will be bringing in additional resources to assist with keeping the beach safe.

Parking Ban in Place

There is no street parking in the neighborhoods near the beaches. Additionally, a parking ban will be in full effect on July 4th in the neighborhoods and businesses adjacent to the beaches. Vehicles found in violation will be subject to being ticketed and/or towed.

Residents in the area should be well aware of the general parking restrictions in place and we understand that residents may have guests over to their homes for Fourth of July festivities. While parking enforcement officers will be out in the neighborhoods, they will do their best to attempt to make contact with residents about any vehicles parked in front of their homes before ticketing and/or towing vehicles.

Growing Danger and Concern

The combination of crowd size and alcohol has resulted in increasingly large, disorderly, and chaotic crowds. Last year, Dennis Police responded to multiple calls reporting large groups fighting and drinking on the beach, as well as several calls of people urinating and stepping in the protected beach dunes.

During one call, police disrupted a live boxing match that was set to take place on the beach and confiscated boxing gloves. One male victim was violently assaulted in a beach bathhouse and sustained serious head and facial injuries. A woman was struck by a vehicle in the parking lot during a physical altercation. In addition, a Dennis Police officer was surrounded by a group of disorderly individuals and was assaulted.

In total, Dennis Police made 13 arrests last year for offenses including underage liquor possession, assault, assault with a dangerous weapon, and leaving the scene of a personal injury crash.

In 2022, Dennis Police and the Select Board closed Mayflower Beach after a number of fights, only for the crowds to move on to other town beaches. In 2021, a man was pistol-whipped during a large fight on the beach. (Further information and data about calls for service to the beaches in recent years can be found below.)

In addition, crowds also leave behind a tremendous amount of trash, including beer cans, broken glass bottles, towels, clothing, shoes, coolers, beach chairs and other items that takes DPW personnel and volunteer crews hours to clean up.

Current Plan for Restrictions

The current plan is for these restrictions to be put into place only on July 4th and only for this year. Town officials will evaluate the effectiveness of these measures and discuss if they will continue in subsequent years or if other plans need to be made.

Local residents or business owners who have questions about the temporary measures can contact the Dennis Police Department at 508-394-1315.

Additional Data and Information

To provide further context, below are the number of calls for service and significant incidents at Dennis beaches since 2019:

2019

- Calls for service at Dennis Beaches: 230
- No arrests
- Two small groups arguing
- Medical/rescue calls
- Normal parking and traffic-related issues

2020:

- Calls for service at Dennis Beaches: 169
- No arrests

- Rowdy kids on the beach
- Medical/rescue calls
- Parking and traffic-related issues

2021:

- Calls for service at Dennis Beaches: 387
- One arrest for assault
- Large fight on Mayflower Beach. Firearm was displayed and one victim was pistol-whipped.
- Two disturbance calls for fights at the beach involving 10 to 20 individuals.
- Three calls to disperse large groups of young adults drinking and using drugs at Mayflower Beach. One group was estimated to be 200-plus people.
- Several vehicles were vandalized in beach parking lots.
- Numerous street signs were damaged in the area of the beaches.

2022:

- Calls for Service at Dennis Beaches: 382
- Numerous calls for large groups fighting at Mayflower Beach. One male sustained serious head and eye trauma from being assaulted.
- Calls for several hundred people causing a disturbance. Officers reported more than 200 to 300 people circled around several others performing “Oklahoma” football tackle drills.
- Due to overwhelming crowds and drunken/disorderly behavior, beaches were ordered closed by the Police Chief and Select Board for safety reasons. Beaches were cleared.
- As a result of beaches being closed and cleared, several other beaches in Dennis were overwhelmed by hundreds of displaced beachgoers. Numerous calls for fights and vandalism at other beaches. A large fire was set in the dunes of another beach.
- Three individuals were placed into protective custody

2023:

- Calls for Service at Dennis Beaches: 459
- 13 arrests for various offenses including under-aged liquor possession, assault, assault with a dangerous weapon and leaving the scene of a personal injury crash.
- Numerous calls for large groups fighting and drinking on the beach.
- Calls for people urinating in the protected beach dunes.
- Call for several hundred people causing a disturbance. Officers report 500-plus people circled around several others performing “Oklahoma” football tackle drills.
- Officers also confiscated boxing gloves and disrupted a live boxing match that was set to take place on the beach.
- One officer was surrounded by a group of disorderly individuals and assaulted.
- One male victim was violently assaulted in the bathroom and sustained serious head and facial injuries.
- A female was struck by a vehicle in the parking lot during a physical altercation with several people. The driver attempted to flee and several arrests were made.
- Bathroom toilets were damaged and clogged with beer cans and bottles.
- Beaches littered with several tons of trash.

4. 187 UPPER COUNTY ROAD (FORMER CATHOLIC CHURCH PROPERTY) STATUS REPORT

During the Special Town meeting held on February 29, 2024, the citizens voted affirmatively to purchase the property at 187 Upper County Road (Article 3), and subsequently voted to transfer a sum of money to demolish the building located on this property (Article 4) and survey the property (Article 5). An as-built survey was conducted, locating the building, wetland and all associated features.

A “Plan of Land in Dennis, Massachusetts” was prepared by Paul E. Sweetser, Professional Land Surveyor, dated March 29, 2024. The property has a wetland located at the rear of the property, there have been a number of staff meetings regarding this property to determine next steps.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has been actively preparing for this project and has had the power and water disconnected and the gas company is scheduling the disconnect, bid documents are being prepared by DPW. The consultant Kleinfelder has been retained for assisting with hazardous waste removal specifications for the bid document and met on May 30th via ZOOM to discuss status of project. The lack of existing building and septic plans have created a challenge in regards to depicting the scope of work. The Engineering Department, who assisted on May 31st to conduct a septic system investigation, finding a septic tank and leach pit as well as marking out the 50' buffer zone from wetland.

It was determined that permitting through Conservation can be handled Administratively and a letter of intent has been crafted and notations have been made on the existing plan. The DPW is working with the Building Department to obtain a demolition permit in advance of bidding project, as to avoid any unnecessary delay, which will be transferred to the contractor upon successful bidding process.

The property has recently been mowed. The Select Board will be discussing and seeking feedback from the public on next steps for the property at an upcoming meeting.

5. STICKER SALES

The Sticker Office open for in person purchase of Transfer Station, Beach and Harbor Permits. ORV online only. (Monday – Friday 10am – 4pm) **and** on Saturday and Sunday, 10am – 2pm

Mutual respect and courtesy are expected of sticker sales personnel and customers. Non-compliance with the Town's guidelines will result in denial of service and seasonal stickers.

Remember you can skip the line and order your beach and transfer station stickers online too at [Town of Dennis Online Transactions \(townhall247.com\)](https://townhall247.com)

6. HEAT SAFETY 101

Published on: June 14, 2024 – Barnstable County



Temps are rising on Cape Cod as we head into summer, presenting a serious hazard for certain occupations and age groups (particularly the very young and very old). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 700 people die from extreme heat every year in the United States.

Heat-related illness is completely preventable! Here are some simple tips from CDC to help you keep your cool this summer.

Take measures to stay cool, stay hydrated, and stay informed!

Getting too hot can make you sick. You can become ill from the heat if your body can't compensate for it and properly cool you off. The main things affecting your body's ability to cool itself during extremely hot weather are:

- **High humidity.** When the humidity is high, sweat won't evaporate as quickly. This keeps your body from releasing heat as fast as it may need to.

- **Personal factors.** Age, obesity, fever, dehydration, heart disease, mental illness, poor circulation, sunburn, and prescription drug and alcohol use all can play a role in whether a person can cool off enough in very hot weather.

Those who are at highest risk include people 65 and older, children younger than two, and people with chronic diseases or mental illness.

Closely monitor people who depend on you for their care and ask these questions:

- Are they drinking enough water?
- Do they have access to air conditioning?
- Do they need help keeping cool?

People at greatest risk for heat-related illness can take the following protective actions to prevent illness or death:

- Stay in air-conditioned buildings as much as you can. Air-conditioning is the number one way to protect yourself against heat-related illness and death. If your home is not air-conditioned, reduce your risk for heat-related illness by spending time in public facilities that are air-conditioned and using air conditioning in vehicles. Contact your local health department or locate an air-conditioned shelter in your area.
- Do not rely on a fan as your main cooling device during an extreme heat event.
- Drink more water than usual and don't wait until you're thirsty to drink.
- Check on a friend or neighbor and have someone do the same for you.
- Limit use of the stove and oven—it will make you and your house hotter.

Even young and healthy people can get sick from the heat if they participate in strenuous physical activities during hot weather:

- Limit your outdoor activity, especially midday when the sun is hottest.
- Pace your activity. Start activities slowly and pick up the pace gradually.
- Drink more water than usual and don't wait until you're thirsty to drink more. Muscle cramping may be an early sign of heat-related illness.
- Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.

If you play a sport that practices during hot weather, protect yourself and look out for your teammates:

- Schedule workouts and practices earlier or later in the day when the temperature is cooler.
- Monitor a teammate's condition and have someone do the same for you.
- Seek medical care right away if you or a teammate has symptoms of [heat-related illness](#).
- Learn more about how to protect young athletes from heat-related illness by taking this [CDC course](#).

Everyone should take these steps to prevent heat-related illnesses, injuries, and death during hot weather:

- Stay in an air-conditioned indoor location as much as you can.
- Drink plenty of fluids even if you don't feel thirsty.
- Schedule outdoor activities carefully.
 - Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing and sunscreen.
 - Pace yourself.
- Take cool showers or baths to cool down.
- Check on a friend or neighbor and have someone do the same for you.
- Never leave children or pets in cars.
- Check the local news for health and safety updates.

Do you work outdoors or in an environment without air conditioning or have employees who do? Learn more about heat stress, find out who is at risk, and learn how to prevent heat-related illness in the work place.

[The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\)](#)

Additional Resources

- [CDC Heat & Health Tracker](#)
- [CDC Extreme Heat Video](#)
- [Extreme Heat Multimedia Resources and Social Media Graphics](#)
- [Extreme Heat and Your Health](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Extreme Heat](#)
- [Heat and Athletes](#)
- [Heat and Infants and Children](#)
- [Heat and Low Income Households](#)
- [Heat and Older Adults](#)
- [Tips for Preventing Heat-Related Illness](#)
- [Managing Diabetes in the Heat](#)
- [Protect Workers from Heat Stress](#)
- [Warning Signs and Sy](#)

7. CAPE COD COMMISSION

June 20, 2024

Notice of Public Review and Comment Period - FFY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 4

<https://www.capecodcommission.org/about-us/newsroom/notice-of-public-review-and-comment-period-ffy-2024-2028-transportation-improvement-program-tip-amendment-4/>

During a meeting held on June 17, 2024, the Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) released the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 4 for a 21-day public review and comment period.

The FFY 2024-2028 serves as a prioritized listing of roadway, bridge, and transit projects proposed for implementation during the next five (5) federal fiscal years. Amendment 4 would award a \$1,395,052 Community Transit Grant to the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA) to purchase twelve transit vehicles through the State's Mobility Assistance Program. A copy of the document may be downloaded at www.capecodcommission.org/mpo.

A virtual public meeting of the Cape Cod MPO is scheduled for Monday, July 15, 2024 at 1:00 PM to hear public comments and vote on potential endorsement of Amendment 4. More information on this meeting can be found at www.capecodcommission.org/mpo or by calling 508-362-3828.

Public comments on Amendment 4 will be accepted through July 8, 2024. Comments may be submitted by mail or email, as detailed below:

Mail comments to:

Cape Cod Commission Transportation Program
Colleen Medeiros, Transportation Program Manager
3225 Main Street (Route 6A)
PO Box 226
Barnstable, MA 02630-0226

E-mail comments to: colleen.medeiros@capecodcommission.org

For more information, visit www.capecodcommission.org/tip or contact Colleen Medeiros, Transportation Program Manager at colleen.medeiros@capecodcommission.org.

8. REMINDER - SUMNER TUNNEL CLOSURE



Do you have plans to fly out of Logan Airport or head north of Boston this summer? If you do, please be aware that the Sumner Tunnel will be closed from Friday, July 5th through Monday, August 5th

MassDOT is encouraging travelers to plan ahead and when possible to #DitchtheDrive and use public transportation. The MBTA Blue Line will be operating with free fares for all riders, there will be free and discounted ferry options, and reduced MBTA Commuter Rail fares and parking costs.

9. REMINDER SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Special Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 1st, at 7:00PM at the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate School located at 286 Station Ave. S. Yarmouth, MA. 02664

The Select Board will commence review of Town meeting articles during the month of July and continue through August and once complete the Warrant will be published in September.

August 13, 2024 is the Citizen Petition deadline for the October 1st Special Town Meeting, due by 4PM to the Town Clerk's Office.

September 20, 2024 is the last day to register to vote in the Special Town Meeting.

10. NEXT MEETING DATES OF THE DENNIS SELECT BOARD

The Dennis Select Board will meet on July 16, 2024 for regularly scheduled business. Upcoming meeting dates of the Select Board can be found on the [Town of Dennis website here](#).

All are welcome to attend and participate in our open and public meetings. The agenda for each meeting is posted 48 business hours prior to the scheduled meeting time and can be accessed through the Select Board's webpage or the Town calendar webpage.

Attend in-person at the Town Hall, Stone Meeting Room. Or for alternative public access join the meeting online via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7660036712> or participate by phone by dialing 1-646-558-8656 and entering Conference ID 766 003 6712 #.

11. JOIN THE TEAM – THE TOWN OF DENNIS IS HIRING

Are you or someone you know looking for work? The Town of Dennis is hiring! Several full and part-time positions available. Apply and view current job openings [here](#).

Respectfully,

Elizabeth C. Sullivan, Town Administrator